

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 5-6 and 11-12 are currently pending in this application. Claims 5-6 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added by way of the present amendment. For instance, claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form. The dependency of claims 5-6 has been amended. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

At the outset, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Entry of this amendment is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116, as the amendment raises no new issues which would require further search and/or consideration by the Examiner. Alternatively, Applicant requests entry of the amendment in order to place the claims in better form for consideration on Appeal.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all outstanding rejections and allow the currently pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. 102/103

Claims 1-3 and 7-10

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 stand rejected as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, as being obvious over Zhang et al. (US 2004/0086782) (hereinafter “Zhang”). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claims 1-3 and 7-10 have been cancelled by way of the present amendment. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Claim 11

Claim 11 stands rejected as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, obvious over JP 2003-138057 (hereinafter "JP '057"). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Applicants submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of anticipation or obviousness. As correctly acknowledged by the Examiner, JP '057 does not explicitly or implicitly teach the claimed limitations of average pore size, average rate of open pores inside the porous film, amount of the coat of the chemical-resistant polymeric compound relative to the porous film, or a porous film which maintains the properties of the film base. Moreover, Applicants submit that the above are not "routine experimentations" and, as such, the skilled artisan would not have been motivated to modify the teachings of JP '057 as proposed by the Examiner.

In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claim 12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants submit that all presently pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A Notice of Allowability is thus respectfully requested.

Conclusion

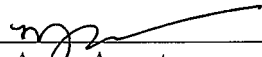
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and objections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Vanessa Perez-Ramos, Reg. No. 61,158 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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